

TPB Staff Director's Report July 20 through August 20, 2008

With the Board scheduled to consider adoption of Concept 3 as the regional transit vision (see **Agenda Item # IV**) plan, we have also requested that our planning partners MARTA, GRTA and ARC also adopt Concept 3. This action by our partners will formally incorporate Concept 3 into the regional transportation planning process in an effort to facilitate a positive action towards the advancement of regional transit. Board adoption of Concept 3 also signals the accomplishment of one of our main goals; that being the development and adoption of a regional transit vision. It is now time for us to focus our energies and attention on our other two goals: a recommendation on regional transit governance and a funding analysis and strategy.

Thus, during the months of July and August we have worked to complete our analysis of Concept 3 including making changes to the concept based upon the inputs we received from the six month long public involvement process. These changes were shared with the Board at the July Committee meetings along with our initial draft summary of the impacts of Concept 3. We have also worked closely as a team with MARTA and our planning partners to develop an illustrative phase implementation plan for Concept 3 (see **Agenda Item # V**) to facilitate the discussion of a regional governance structure and funding scenario. We are hopeful that the results from our breakout sessions on August 28th will move us closer to defining a potential regional structure for transit. We will discuss the issue further at the September committee meetings and again in October. We want to be in a position for some sort of Board action on regional governance by October but no later than the November meeting.

Since we will have an abbreviated business section of our August meeting, we are asking Board members to please arrive on time and take your lunch into the Board room and eat there so that we might start the meeting by 11:45. This will give us more time for our breakout sessions. Because of the abbreviated business section of the meeting, we will not be giving an update from the Operations and Oversight Committee. There are several attachments to this report that will bring you up to date on the service coordination effort. The service coordination activities of the TPB have been one of our most successful efforts. We, as a region, get together on a monthly basis with all of the service providers in the region and exchange information and identify ways we can work better together to provide better coordinated regional transit services. Through our quarterly Bus Maintenance Forum, we have indentified how we might coordinate as a region to improve the training for our bus maintenance personnel and improve safety (see **Attachments 3 & 4**). Also please take advantage and bring others from your organization or counties to the regional energy roundtable (see **Attachment 5** to this agenda item) being held on September 3rd and sponsored by MARTA. Learn how we might work together to ease the crunch on our operations resulting from increased fuel/energy prices.

The staff would like to extend congratulations to all of our returning Board members who won re-election and the counties that approved their SPLOSH votes!